SUBJECTS.

that the presiding officers only decided cases but left the work of the Courts entirely to the gumastas who mismanaged things. The Member also adverted to the malpractices of the clerks of the Kottarakara Munsiff's Court.

24

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

Inconvenience resulting from investing one officer with judicial and executive powers at the same time.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi (Member, Quilon Taluk) stated that, as the Tahsildar-Magistrates had to perform judicial and executive functions, people were put to much inconvenience and trouble. As the Tahsildars had to tour in different parts of their taluks in connection with their revenue work the parties and their pleaders also had to follow wherever the Magistrates went. The scheme proposed by the High Court *re* Magistrate-Munsiffs was also not satisfactory. Those conversant with litigation in Travancore knew that, in many property-suits, there was always a prelude in the shape of a criminal case. The Magistrate, after deciding the case in one way, could not be expected to take a different view, when the matter came up in the shape of a civil suit. Hence, as far as possible, there ought to be Magistrates separate from Tahsildars; and there should not be Magistrate-Munsiffs as proposed by the High Court. The Member proposed that, as the financial difficulties that might have to be met in relieving the District Magistrates completely of their revenue work were great, the following changes might be made for the present, *viz.*,

(1) The Division Assistants might be exclusively put in charge of the Criminal Appellate work.

(2) They might be allowed to deal with bail applications filed with appeals. At present, the Division Assistants could deal with only such appeals as were transferred to them by the District Magistrates. The Member suggested that the law might be amended in this respect.

The following Members were then requested by the Dewan to give their opinions in regard to the advisability of having Munsiff-Magistrates' Courts, in lieu of Tahsildar-Magistrates :—

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi.—I am in favour of Magistrate-Munsiffs.

Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai.—I would rather leave things as they are at present.

Mr. K. Raman Tampi.—I think the Magistrate-Munsiff system will not work satisfactorily.

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai.—I am not in favour of Magistrate-Munsiffs.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai.—I do not think that th system of Magistrate-Munsiffs will work satisfactorily.

Mr. K. Atchuthan Pillai.—I prefer Magistrate Munsiffs to Tahsildar-Magistrates.

Mr. C. Krishna Aiyar.—Munsiffs and Magistrates mu be separate, as some cases which have been criminall disposed of, will have to be decided civilly also.

Mr. A. Harihara Aiyar.—Magistrates and Munsiffs must be separate.

Mr. P. Kesava Pillai.—I am in favour of Magistrate-Munsiffs.

Mr K. Krishnan Pandalay reserved his opinion.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Aiyar.—In Shencotta, we find no inconvenience by having a Magistrate-Munsiff.

Mr. G. Aiyappen Pillai.—I am against Magistrate-Munsiffs.

Mr. Parameswaran Pillai.—I am not in favour of Magistrate-Munsiffs.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

23. *Desirability of adopting measures to check the growing tendency to commit murders, riots, etc.*

Mr. Chembakaraman Padmanabhan (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) stated that the Police, as guardians of the peace, did not properly discharge their duties in maintaining the peace of the taluks in which they were posted for duty. Instead of checking murder and other crimes, they encouraged such crimes. From the Administration Report, it was clear that there was a police constable for every 5 sq. miles. But, owing to the negligence of the Police in discharging their duties, crimes increased day by day. It was the Station-House Officers t investigated cases. They did not carry out such investi tion properly. From the Administration Report, it was see that the Superintendent of Police inspected each Statio twice last year. His inspection was only superficial, attention having been paid only to the neatness of the Station, to the cleanliness of the records and to the drill of the constables. He did not care to enquire whether the Police were doing their work properly. The Member prayed that Government might be pleased to take steps to render the Police the blessing it was intended to be.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-15 P. M.

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